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York County Man Sentenced on Federal Firearm Charges

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced today that a federal judge sitting in Portland sentenced **Wayne R. Whitney**, 26, of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, to 18 months in prison for making a false statement in connection with his attempted acquisition of a firearm.

According to court records, on May 23, 2005, Whitney attempted to purchase a firearm from a licensed dealer in Biddeford. In the process of completing this transaction, Whitney filled out a form that asked, among other questions, whether he was subject to a court order that restrained him from harassing, stalking or threatening his child or intimate partner. Individuals subject to such an order are prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law. Whitney answered "no" to this question, despite the fact that less than four months previously, a Protection From Abuse Order had been issued against him by the Springvale District Court, prohibiting him from harassing, assaulting or threatening the mother of his son. In addition, Whitney had been arrested for violating this same order less than one month before attempting to purchase the firearm.

This case is part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which is designed to reduce gun violence. United States Attorney Silsby said that the investigation leading to the conviction was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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